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ABSTRACT

Data on free universities and learning centers (including the addresses of the institutions) are presented. In a survey developed by the Free University Network for the National Center for Education Statistics, statistics on the free universities and learning centers are provided in the following areas: numbers of institutions, enrollment data, staff statistics, fees and budget information, programs available, and problems and future directions. Among findings of the study are that there are 146 free universities and 42 learning referral centers, that 60 percent of the free universities and 20 percent of the learning centers are affiliated with a college or university, and that (in 1978) almost 300,000 people were enrolled in free universities and learning centers had over 21,000 registrants, made over 26,000 referrals, and had almost 20,000 resource persons or teachers on file. Other findings revealed that 73 percent of the staff of both institutions were volunteer, that almost 20,000 different class or activity sections were offered, and that the average annual budget for a free university was about $20,500. The survey instrument is appended. (PHR)

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FREE UNIVERSITIES AND LEARNING REFERRAL CENTERS 1978

National Center for Education Statistics

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

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Highlights

First organized in the early 1960's, free universities and learning referral centers now number 146 and 42 respectively[1]. Sixty percent of the free universities and 20 percent of the learning centers are affiliated with a college or university. Fourteen institutions are both free universities and learning centers.

Free universities reported registrations of 298,255 for 1978, including eight which had over 10,000 registered. Learning centers had 21,480 registrants, made 26,849 referrals, and had 19,452 teachers or resource persons on file.

The typical free university or learning referral center staff person was not paid but volunteered and worked part-time (both 73 percent).

Almost 20,000 different class or activity sections were offered in 1978, with the most in arts, both visual and performing (3,861); home economics (2,936); physical education and leisure studies (2,124); and engineering and engineering-related technology (2,120).

Compared to normal college or university tuition and other costs, fees charged are low. Most charge only a minimum amount, either a school or service registration fee, or a teacher or materials fee, based upon actual costs.

The average budget for a free university is around $20,500. However, this figure was affected considerably by the budgets for a few large free universities. The 16 largest, for example, had an average budget of $132,700. By contrast, the 77 smallest had budgets which average $1,460.

The average budget for a learning center was approximately $22,200. The 6 largest had an average of $61,200 and the 12 smallest averaged $2,722.

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[1]Free universities are defined as a specific type of organization under whose auspices noncredit, nondegree classes are offered to the general adult public. They tend to issue catalogs of their offerings, to charge only a small fee which covers class expenses or no fee at all, and to operate on a relatively low budget. They often are called free universities, experimental colleges, free schools, or communiversities.

Learning referral centers provide educational referrals to individuals seeking information from other individuals offering teaching, skill, or tutorial services. They serve as education brokers, between persons seeking specific education and sources able to provide it. They are also known as educational referral centers, learning networks, learning exchanges, and referral services.

FREE

FREE UNIVERSITIES AND LEARNING REFERRAL CENTERS 1978

by
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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
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NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS

"The purpose of the Center shall be to collect and disseminate statistics and other data related to education in the United States and in other nations. The Center shall . . . collect, collate, and, from time to time, report full and complete statistics on the conditions of education in the United States; conduct and publish reports on specialized analyses of the meaning and significance of such statistics; . . . and review and report on education activities in foreign countries."--Section 406(b) of the General Education Provisions Act, as amended (20 U.S.C. 1221e-1).

Foreword

Public Law 93-380 requires that the National Center for Education Statistics study and report on the status of all phases and levels of education in the United States. One area, not heretofore studied, is that of free universities and learning centers.

First developed during the period of student protests of the 1960's, these institutions were student-lead and served the student community and/or the general public. Their increasing stability, innovative approach to education, and low-cost of operations make them particularly popular today.

This first national survey of free universities and learning centers was planned by the Free University Network (FUN) and by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). The survey form and list of institutions was developed by FUN, which also handled all the mailing, followup, and editing of data. The tables and final report were prepared by NCES.

Special thanks are due to William A. Draves of FUN University Network and to his associates on this project: Doris Hoerman, Joseph K. Rippetoe, C. James Killacky, and Sue Maes. Special assistance also was provided by the Board of FUN Network: Gregg Marlesso, Anne Colgan, Meredith McElroy, Ed Dobmeyer, Dennis DuBe, Jim Schupps and Steve Tedesco. Support was also provided by Francis U. Macy and James Hefferman of the National Center for Educational Brokering. Within NCES, the project was coordinated by Robert Calvert, Jr., assisted by Barbara Whalen and Ruth Minnis.

The information provided by the various free universities and learning centers was the key to the outcome of this project. Their responses, and obvious interest in communicating the status of their institution, should be acknowledged with appropriate appreciation.

Rolf M. Wulfsberg
Acting Director, Division of
Postsecondary and Vocational
Education Statistics

September 1978

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Introduction

"Free universities and learning referral centers are among the newest educational developments in the United States." What makes them distinctive is that they began without benefit of Federal or State funding or planning by professional educators. Rather, they began as an outgrowth of the student activism on college and university campuses in the mid-1960's. Since then, free universities and learning centers have extended their activities to include the general public including the elderly, rural resident, and pre-college youth.

Free Universities

A free university is generally defined as an organization offering ungraded, unaccredited classes to the general public in which anyone can teach and anyone can learn.[1] Distinguishing characteristics of a free university include the fact that lay members are teachers, teachers offer practically any course they think may be of interest, and admission of students is open.

It is generally recognized that the free university movement had its origins in the free speech movement. Both that movement and the first free university appeared on the campus of the University of California at Berkeley in 1964. From its beginning in the San

[1] Free universities are defined as a specific type of organization under whose auspices noncredit, nondegree classes are offered to the general adult public. They tend to issue catalogs of their offerings, to charge only a small fee which covers class expenses or no fee at all, and to operate on a relatively low budget. They often are called free universities, experimental colleges, free schools, or communiversities.

Francisco Bay Area, the concept of free universities spread across the country–in conjunction with the student movement.

From 1964 to 1971, free universities were primarily a campus phenomenon, with the leadership and participants almost exclusively student based. The course content was often very social or political in nature and the flavor of free universities was a reflection of other campus developments: peace activities, civil rights, concern for ecology, and the women's movement.[2]

Between 1971 and 1975, campus-based free universities declined in visibility. Marking this period were articles predicting their demise.[3] Actually, as the survey summarized in this report documents, the free university became more diversified in this period. Some became independent, breaking all ties to the college or university campus on which they began and some were taken over by community agencies. As the orientation of the free university turned more toward the community, participants increasingly came from the general population. The curriculum expanded to include practical skills, arts and crafts, humanities, and personal growth.

Since 1975, free universities have experienced a period of renewed growth and visibility. The number of free universities stabilized at around 150 to 200. Enrollments have grown as more adults participated in lifelong learning. Several of the larger free universities (including the University for Man in Kansas and the Community Free School in Colorado) initiated outreach programs which encouraged the development of additional free universities in their area. The Educational Testing Service in 1978 listed free universities as one of the 12 major nonschool providers of adult learning in the United States.[4] The resurgence and stability of the free university movement was sensed by many close to educational innovation.[5]

[2]See "Service to the Campus: Free Universities" in Paul Lauter and Florence Howe *The Conspiracy of the Young*, New American Library, pp. 29-128.

Jane Lichtman, *Bring Your Own Bag*. American Association of Higher Education, 1973.

[3]"No Grades, No Exams–And Now, No Schools" *New York Times*, August 22, 1971.

Paul Lauter and Florence Howe "What Happened to the Free University", *Saturday Review*, June 20, 1970.

[4]Richard E. Petersen, *Toward Lifelong Learning in America: A Sourcebook for Planning*, Jossey-Bass, Manuscript in Process.

[5]"Free Universities: Many Still Thriving" *Chronicle of Higher Education*, November 22, 1976.

"Free University Idea Catches Fire" United Press International Wire Service release, May 12, 1976.

Learning Referral Centers

Learning referral centers serve as educational brokers, often by use of a telephone referral service.[6] Persons call the learning center to register their learning need and to ascertain who might provide the needed information. Others call the center to indicate that they have knowledge and would be willing to serve as a resource in certain areas. The learning center matches learners with resource persons. Most educational activity arranged through learning centers is on a one-to-one basis. Sometimes, the two parties "barter" for an exchange of services, for example, "you help me with computer programming and I will work with your backyard landscaping." One learning center, in fact calls itself "Trade Off" and another is known as "Share."

The first learning referral center was The Learning Exchange set up in Evanston, Illinois, in 1971. This began as a direct result of Ivan Illich's proposal for "learning webs"[7] and a visit by the founders of The Learning Exchange to Illich's center in Guernavaca, Mexico.

Since 1971, an estimated 100 learning referral centers have been established around the country. However, only 20-30 have been in existence at any one time. A major problem is their relatively low budgets and their inability to afford permanent, full-time staff. The success of learning centers, as well as free universities, often is closely related to the ability of the initial founders to recruit new cohorts of interested and dedicated volunteer/part-time staff.

The growth of learning referral centers has been aided by a technical assistance program established by The Learning Exchange. This is best documented in *The Learning Exchange*.[8]

The informality of free universities and learning referral centers is often reflected in their names. While some use more formal titles such as The Learning Connection, Creative Alternatives, and Manhattan Resources, others have selected Other Term, Gumbu U:

[6]Learning referral centers provide educational referrals to individuals seeking information from other individuals offering teaching, skill, or tutorial services. They serve as education brokers, between persons seeking specific education and sources able to provide it. They are also known as educational referral centers, learning networks, learning exchanges, and referral services.

[7]Ivan Illich, *Deschooling Society*, Harper-Row, 1972.

[8]Robert Lewis and Diane Kinishi, *The Learning Exchange*, The Learning Exchange, Evanston, Illinois, 1977.

Home of Finger-Lickin' Learning, and The Class Factory.

Free universities and learning centers see themselves as being linking mechanisms for serious as well as leisure learning. Their mission is defined to include creating a sense of community, developing feelings of individual worth and control of one's destiny, promoting community development and political democracy, and exploring ways of looking at the world.

Still another characteristic is the tendency for some free universities to specialize in a particular area. Illustrative are several with a special interest in the women's movement or ecology and diet, (such as the Health and Life University).

Survey Procedures

A number of steps were taken to develop the data which are presented in this report.

First, a list of free universities and learning referral centers was developed by the Free University Network, based upon both its membership and others known by it. The Free University Network is a national organization of free universities and learning referral centers. Names of additional organizations were sought from other sources to provide the most comprehensive list possible.

Second, a survey form was developed by the Free University Network, working with the National Center for Education Statistics.

Third, the form was mailed out in March 1978 to 270 organizations identified as possibly being either a free university or learning referral center. These institutions were followed up by the Free University Network to insure prompt and complete responses. Within 6 weeks replies had been received from 234 organizations (including some not eligible to be counted as a free university or learning referral center). Telephone and written followup resulted in a response rate of over 95 percent of the original mailing.

Fourth, the data returns were edited by the Free University Network, including verification and "more information needed" contacts.

Fifth, this summary report was prepared.

Numbers Of Free Universities And Learning Referral Centers

The survey identified 132 free universities, 28 learning centers, and 14 which are both of these types. Thus, the tables in this report are based upon a total of 146 free universities and 42 learning referral centers. A list appears in the directory at the end of the report, including some institutions too new to have participated in the survey.

Most free universities and learning referral centers, are relatively new institutions. As shown in table 1 a third of the free universities were founded before 1971. Table 2 shows that the first learning centers began around 1971. Some have had interrupted service periods, often the result of a temporary loss of leadership or unwillingness on the part of persons to take administrative responsibility for operating the program. For example, an experimental college, affiliated with a midwestern liberal arts college, began operations in 1969. However, the college faded from sight in 1974 and it was not until 1976 that it resumed offering courses.

Many of these institutions reported that a crucial period occurs after the first few years. As one responded:

> We have hit a critical period in our history. After 5 years of existence, we can no longer command the enthusiasm and grant funding of a new project and we have no way of guaranteeing a minimum operating budget. This means we can't pay our staff a living wage and consequently have a high staff turnover.

Most free universities and learning referral centers are related to another organization. However, independent status seems to be a growing phenomenon. Of the 45 free universities which report that they are an

Table 1.--Year founded of free universities by affiliation, eligibility for activities, and type of activities: United States, 1978

Year founded	Total	Affiliation				Eligibility for activities			Type of activities[1]			
		College	Community agency	Independent	Other	Anyone	Limited to special community	Other	Classes	Educational referrals	Cooperatives	Other
Total	146	88	12	45	1	126	17	6	143	16	28	15
1977 or 1978	20	6	3	11	—	16	4	—	20	—	5	
1975 or 1976	38	20	2	16	—	31	7	—	38	4	11	4
1973 or 1974	15	10	2	3	—	13	—	2	13	1	1	1
1971 or 1972	22	14	2	6	—	16	3	3	21	2	3	2
Before 1971	47	35	3	9	—	43	3	1	47	9	8	5
No information on year	4	3	—	—	1	7	—	—	4	—	—	—

[1]Numbers add up to more than number of institutions as some schools offered more than one type of activity.

independent (not affiliated) organization, 27 were organized since 1974. For learning referral centers, 26 of 42 were independent including most of those formed since 1974.

Among those affiliated with another organization, the overwhelming majority of the free universities are related to a college or university (88 of 100 affiliated organizations). Learning centers are equally divided between the 8 affiliated with a college or university and the 8 linked to a community agency. Some of the community agencies involved in these programs are public libraries, Jewish community groups, and community service organizations.

While many free universities and learning referral centers had a campus origin, and their first participants tended to come from the student body, open access to programs is now the norm. Details in tables 1 and 2 show that 126 of the 146 free universities open their activities to anyone as is true of 39 of the 42 learning centers. Where there is a limitation, it is usually restricted to a college community--sometimes, because the program is funded by a student government association.

Many groups have expanded their eligibility for service or service area. Illustrative is a women's program which now admits men and a campus-based program that is moving out to offer programs in other regions of the state as indicated in the following comments:

Table 2.--Year founded of learning referral centers by affiliation, eligibility for activities, and type of activities: United States, 1978

Year founded	Total	Affiliation				Eligibility for activities			Type of activities[1]			
		College	Community agency	Independent	Other	Anyone	Limited to special community	Other	Classes	Educational referrals	Cooperatives	Other
Total	42	8	8	26	—	39	2	1	6	42	4	5
1977 or 1978	15	2	3	10	—	15	—	—	1	15	2	3
1975 or 1976	7	2	—	5	—	7	—	—	1	7	—	—
1973 or 1974	8	2	3	3	—	7	1	—	2	8	—	—
1971 or 1972	8	1	2	5	—	6	1	1	1	8	2	2
Before 1971	3	1	—	2	—	3	—	—	—	3	—	—
No information on year	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—

[1]Numbers add up to more than number of institutions as some schools offered more than one type of activity.

We are planning expansion. We know there are many untapped human resources in our community. Also, by servicing a primarily student population we are faced with the periodic problem of students moving away.

Free universities and learning centers are found in 39 states and the District of Columbia. They tend to be concentrated in certain parts of the country, (such as the Midwest) with an unusually high number in Kansas (20). This was encouraged by two technical assistance grants to start free universities in rural communities. Many of the Kansas free universities, however, are small. New York State has 14 organizations, California has 17, and the cities of Boston and Baltimore have 5 and 3, respectively.

No free university or learning referral center was reported in Alaska, Connecticut, Hawaii, Idaho, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Vermont, and West Virginia.

The main activity of free universities, as shown in table 1, is to offer classes (143 out of 145). Likewise, the learning centers in table 2 all reported that they specialized in educational referrals. However, referrals were offered by 16 of the free universities and classes by 6 of the learning centers—excluding activities of organizations which serve as both a free university and a learning referral center. Cooperatives (such as food cooperatives, housing cooperatives, etc.) were offered by 32 of the organizations and 20 other programs also were cited.

Registrations In Free Universities And Learning Referral Centers

Free universities reported 298,255 registrations. As some persons took more than one activity, the actual number of individuals served (the unduplicated count) was 199,703. Almost half of the registrations were reported by the eight largest free universities.

Figures for learning referral centers are lower, 21,480 persons (unduplicated) registered for educational assistance and 19,452 persons volunteered to serve as teachers or resource persons. A total of 26,849 referrals were made by learning centers. The two largest learning centers accounted for 44 percent of all registrations, 53 percent of all referrals, and 17 percent of all teachers.

Some learning centers reported more persons registered than were referred, the difference being persons who sought help but who were not able to be matched with a source of assistance. Others found it hard to distinguish between registrations for assistance and teachers or resource persons, on the grounds that "all of our participants are available to share knowledge." One respondent reported it had 90 resource persons available, registered by 124 topics or skill areas. Of this, 56 were classified as teachers (willing to provide instruction) and 34 were interest match persons (willing to provide information or to talk about their hobby or skill).

In a 1972 study, Lichtman estimated there were between 120,000 and 200,000 registrations.[1] Thus, the 1978 data shows growth, but somewhat less than the inflated claims of many who speak or write about the field.

[1] Lichtman, *Bring Your Own Bag.*

Table 3.—Registration size of free universities by total registrations and unduplicated registrations: United States, 1978 and 1977

Registration size 1978	Number of institutions	Total registrations		Unduplicated registrations	
		1978	1977	1978	1977
Total	146	298,255	248,293	199,703	174,310
10,000 and over	8	130,842	108,654	77,713	71,559
5,000 to 9,999	9	58,305	56,050	43,250	41,750
2,000 to 4,999	16	45,265	31,389	32,100	22,830
1,000 to 1,999	27	36,236	28,755	26,337	21,289
500 to 999	20	13,381	11,068	9,167	7,816
250 to 499	29	10,182	8,243	8,276	6,318
Less than 250	30	4,043	4,134	2,860	2,748
Not reported and new programs	7	NA	NA	NA	NA

[1]NA: Not applicable.

Registration figures for both 1978 and the prior year appear in tables 3 and 4. In both cases, some institutions failed to report figures so that the grand total of registrations or referrals is probably well over 300,000. Other organizations were new in 1978 and had no figures to report as of yet.

Table 4.—Referral size of learning centers by total referrals, unduplicated registrations, and number of teachers: United States, 1978 and 1977

Referral size 1978	Number of institutions	Total referrals		Unduplicated registrations		Number of teachers	
		1978	1977	1978	1977	1978	1977
Total	42	26,849	23,396	21,480	17,211	19,452	15,445
5,000-9,999	2	14,239	12,821	9,364	8,050	3,358	2,800
2,500-4,999	2	5,450	4,170	4,950	3,740	5,859	4,820
1,000-2,499	1	1,500	1,200	500	300	5,500	4,500
500-999	4	2,549	1,950	2,380	1,889	1,782	1,515
250-500	5	1,525	1,750	1,193	973	858	293
0-249	15	1,586	1,505	3,093	2,259	2,095	1,517
Not reported and new programs	13	—	—	—	—	—	—

The data show that free universities had a 20.1 percent increase over the prior year and learning centers had a 14.7 percent increase. The growth reported by some institutions was phenomenal:

> Last fall was our first semester, with an enrollment of 60. This spring the enrollment reached 1,400. Our biggest problem is finding places to hold our classes.

Another institution commented:

> Our program is very new and has experienced phenomenal growth during its first two sessions. The need for this program in this area is evident. In order to sustain this group, we hope to be able to offer our courses to persons outside of the university community in the future.

Not all institutions, of course, reported registration increases. By size, following are the numbers of free universities with increased, decreased, and no change in registrations for 1978, as compared with 1977:

Registration size 1978	Increased over 1977	Decreased over 1977	No significant change
10,000 and over	6	0	2
5,000 to 9,999	3	3	3
2,000 to 4,999	12	1	3
1,000 to 1,999	13	2	12
500 to 999	12	5	3
250 to 499	18	4	7
Under 250	16	10	4

Among learning centers, 19 showed an increase, 3 a decline, and 7 no significant change compared to the prior year.

Comments made by institutions which had experienced a decline in registrations are illustrated by the following:

> Several factors influenced the drop in participant level from last year. A change in office location and staff philosophy was most apparent, the result of a change in administration.

> The number of courses offered reached a peak in 1976 and has declined since then. The number has probably stabilized and, more importantly, the quality of our classes has improved. We now have a program based on 30 to 40 good classes a term, rather than 80 to 120 mediocre ones. Our future goals include more one time special events, more workshops, and more cosponsoring of campus events.

Information was also obtained on the characteristics of those served by free universities and learning referral centers as shown in table 5. By sex, 40.9 percent of all participants were male and 59.1 percent were female. Fifty organizations had 50 percent or more of their participants male while females accounted for over half of the participants in 95 organizations.

Minority group members accounted for 9.5 percent of all participants—roughly half their proportion of the total population. Only 22 organizations reported minority enrollments of 20 percent or more. Less than half (46.1 percent) of the enrollments in free universities and learning referral centers came from affiliated organizations. This ranged from 35 in which almost all the participants (90 percent or more) came from an affiliated organization to 78 organizations in which less than half of their participants came from an affiliated organization.

Table 5.—Free universities and learning centers by percent of those served male, minority, and from affiliated institution: United States, 1978[1]

Range and percent	Male	Minority	From affiliated institution
Overall percent	40.9	9.5	46.1
	Number of institutions		
Total	174	173	174
90 and over	0	0	35
80-89	1	0	13
70-79	2	0	14
60-69	5	0	5
50-59	42	1	7
40-49	52	1	10
30-39	25	4	6
20-29	11	16	7
10-19	5	31	7
Less than 10	2	61	48
No information	29	59	22

[1]Numbers indicate distribution of institutions by various characteristics. For example, at 4 institutions, minorities account for between 30 to 39 percent of those served.

Staff Of Free Universities And Learning Referral Centers

The typical free university or learning referral center depends upon part-time and unpaid volunteers for most of its staff. As shown by the data in table 6, a total of 1,250 persons held administrative and non-teaching staff positions. Most (73 percent) were non-paid and worked part-time (also 73 percent).

Sixty-six organizations reported that they had one or more full-time, paid staff employees. This, however, is only around a third of all organizations. Among the 66 organizations, 35 had one full-time employee and 13 only two. The remaining had from three to 13 full-time staff members. Seventy-nine organizations had one or more part-time, paid employees. Here, 33 had only one and 26 had two employees of this type. The highest was recorded by an organization with 15 paid, part-time staff members.

Many of the paid workers were employed using CETA (Comprehensive Employment and Training Act) funds. These funds support public service jobs and are designed to provide both job training for those involved and to be relatively short-term in nature. One free university, which reported 13 full-time employees was hiring 9 of them on CETA funds. In some cases, the only full-time, paid employee was provided via CETA.

Other paid employees were reimbursed at a relatively low (sub-professional) rate or given some sort of special financial support. Included in this larger category were persons offered tuition reimbursement at the university with which the learning center was affiliated.

Comments on staff included these three:

Our organization needs a full-time staff person to coordinate its classes.

Table 6.—Staff in free universities and learning centers by full or part-time status and by paid or not paid status: United States, 1978[1]

Staff size	Number of organizations	Total staff	Paid staff		Nonpaid (volunteer) staff	
			Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time
Total	174	1,250	155	182	52	861
Over 100	1	102	–	–	2	100
50-99	1	88	13	–	–	75
25-49	6	233	11	7	7	208
10-24	28	392	47	52	22	271
5-9	39	248	35	53	10	150
Less than 5	86	187	49	70	11	57
No information	13	–	–	–	–	–

[1]Staff includes administrative and other nonteaching person

With only two people, we have become somewhat exhausted.

An absolute must is at least one full-time (presumably paid) person to coordinate the whole show.

Fees And Budgets In Free Universities And Learning Referral Centers

Initially, free universities began with the idea of offering no-cost educational programs. Now, most have had to institute some sort of charge, which led to one institution's describing itself as a "free (almost) university." Overall, however, their basic commitment remains to offer programs at the lowest possible charge.

The types of fees charged by free universities and learning referral centers are shown in table 7. All but

Table 7.—Free universities and learning centers by fees charged for services: United States, 1978[1]

1978[1]

Fees	Free Universities	Learning Centers
Total	146	42
Registration fee to use organization's service	53	9
Teacher, class, or service fee for individual activities	59	7
Materials fee	67	9
Other	2	5
No fees	4	13
No information	3	4

[1]Numbers add up to more than total number of institutions as some schools reported more than one type of fee.

4 free universities and 13 learning referral centers have some sort of charge. Among free universities, the 136 which reported information used 239 different fees or almost two per organization. The three most common

charges are a materials fee (for items actually used in the activity), a general registration fee (to use the service), and a teacher fee (based upon actual use made of the instructional program). Fee practices vary widely among institutions. Some organizations only charge those not affiliated with the sponsoring institution. One has a registration fee of 25¢. Even within a single free university, some teachers are paid for their services, others may elect to take no fee. The fee for teachers may be given directly to them by the students, or collected on their behalf by the free university. Some free universities charge a fee for their catalog.

Learning centers are less likely to charge a fee—in fact, almost a third of those reporting information had no fees. Some learning centers charge a file search fee, to cover costs in identifying qualified resource persons. Resource persons may, then, negotiate their own arrangements with persons seeking help. This may involve a fee between the two individuals, a swapping of services or knowledge, or some other arrangement.

In many cases, of course, free universities are able to keep their charges low because of support from an affiliated organization. This, however, may create problems as cited by one free university which has received financial support from a student government association.

> We are presently being pressured by the student government to charge for classes. We are also being pressured to increase our ratio of students to community participants.

Information on budgets of free universities is summarized in table 8. While the average budget for a free university was $20,000, over half of the free universities operated on less than $1,000. The 16 largest free universities accounted for around three-fourths of all the funds reported. Most of these larger free universities used student fees as a major income source.

Free university funds came from three main sources:

Participants (registration fees, teacher fees, etc.)	77 citations
Outside organizations (affiliated institutions, contracts, grants, etc.)	102 citations
Fund raising and other	60 citations

Some had CETA funds, as mentioned earlier under staff, and this is reported under the category of contracts and grants. Some raised money by leasing equipment to outside organizations (such as renting time on a printing press or in a photography darkroom). A number sold ads in catalogs or other publications or sold textbooks as fund raising measures.

One group used only a single funding source:

> Our goal is simply to offer alternative education to the community on a totally free basis. To meet this aim, we keep our expenses to the minimum. We have no office and our classes are held in private homes. We have no phone and pay no salaries. We are totally unfunded through any grants or donors. We raise the $1,200 it costs us to operate through garage sales. We do not want to charge this structure.

Budget details for learning centers are shown in table 9. In contrast to free universities, contractors and donations were used by more centers than participants fees. The budget average was $22,200, but many reported no information.

Details on expenditures are also shown in tables 8 and 9. While a number reported spending funds on staff salaries and on teacher compensation, the most common expenditure item was for the advertising programs (including costs for catalogs or brochures).

The emphasis on expenditures for publicity and its importance to the free university or learning center is reflected in comments made by a number of institutions.

> Our organization is growing, but our main problem is getting the public to realize that we exist.

> Our free university started a new promotion strategy this year. We improved from a fall enrollment of approximately 380 to a winter enrollment of approximately 846. We hope to expand even further in the future.

> Today, the bus line agreed to put catalogs in all city buses. Two major grocery chains are sending letters to their store managers requesting that they accept catalogs for distribution. We had business cards printed. We got a front page article in the campus paper and four volunteers came in (on their own steam) to do things for us. All of this, just today.

Comments throughout the survey indicate that the development of sufficient and stable income sources represents the single most crucial factor facing free universities and learning referral centers.

Closely related is obtaining sufficient space for operations. This includes office space, work or storage space, and teaching or other activity space. In some

Table 8.–Total budget of free universities by sources of funds and types of expenditures: United States, 1978

Annual budget range	Number of organizations	Total budget	Sources of funds								Types of expenditures				
			Money from affiliated institutions	Student government or other student organization	Registration fees from participants	Teacher, class or service fees from participants	Contracts and grants	Donations	Benefits, fund raisers and special projects	Other	Staff salaries	Teacher fees	Facilities	Catalog, brochure advertising	Other
Total	146	$2,809,414	36	48	57	20	18	34	15	13	70	50	53	128	5
$50,000 and over	16	$2,123,393	3	3	13	5	3	4	4	5	16	11	14	15	3
$25,000-49,999	5	$ 174,550	1	2	4	1	2	3	0	2	4	3	4	5	0
$10,000-24,999	17	$ 236,970	3	6	11	4	5	2	1	1	14	10	12	17	1
$5,000-9,999	22	$ 161,905	7	11	8	2	4	8	4	2	18	7	10	21	0
$1,000-4,999	41	$ 101,331	8	16	16	5	2	6	4	2	17	16	5	37	1
Less than $1,000	36	$ 11,245	13	10	5	3	2	11	2	1	1	3	8	33	0
No information	9	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–

Table 9.–Total budget of learning centers by sources of funds and types of expenditures: United States, 1978

Annual budget range	Number of organizations	Total budget	Sources of funds								Types of expenditures				
			Money from affiliated institutions	Student government or other student organization	Registration fees from participants	Teacher, class or service fees from participants	Contracts and grants	Donations	Benefits, fund raisers and special projects	Other	Staff salaries	Teacher fees	Facilities	Catalog, brochure advertising	Other
Total	42	$400,095	4	3	7	3	12	13	7	2	11	2	9	16	2
$10,000 and over	6	$367,430	3	0	2	2	6	4	4	1	6	1	4	5	2
$1,000-$9,999	8	$ 30,210	0	2	4	1	4	6	2	1	4	0	3	6	0
$1,000 or less	4	$ 2,455	1	1	1	0	2	3	1	0	1	1	2	3	0
No information	10	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Reported under free universities[1]	14	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–

[1] Budgets for joint free universities-learning centers reported under free universities.

cases, more space is needed because of expansion. As one free university reported "We have doubled in size in the last year. We could grow even more if we had more facilities." In some cases, the low priority enjoyed by campus-based organizations means that they get inferior space on campus locations and/or are forced to relocate as other groups put a claim on their space. A particularly traumatic problem occurs when an affiliated institution cuts back on its support, as indicated in this comment:

> We may have to leave the college campus this year (where we receive free rent, telephone, and class space) because of space problems. If this should happen, we would need to increase our fees or otherwise raise an additional several thousand dollars.

Programs In Free Universities And Learning Referral Centers

Responding institutions were asked to send a copy of their class registration schedule or their catalog listing courses and sections of each. These were analyzed and a summary of class sections by subject area developed. These summaries for free universities were totalled, and the results are presented in table 10.

The data show that 19,361 class sections were offered. Given the previous registration figure of 262,015, the average size of a class section was 13.5 persons. The activities with the highest number of class sessions in 1978 were (1) arts (visual and performing) with 3,861 sections; (2) home economics, with 2,936; (3) physical education and leisure studies, with 2,124; and (4) engineering and engineering-related technology, with 2,120. These four major areas accounted for 57.0 percent of all registrations. Most institutions offered a range of activities in 5 to 10 subject areas.

An analysis of the number of sections offered by individual institutions is shown below. Particularly significant is the fact that some schools offer over 500 different class sections in a year, while many offer less than 50.

Number of sections	Number of organizations	Range of number of sections
500 plus	7	577 to 2,322
250-499	10	256 to 443
100-249	36	100 to 248
50-99	27	50 to 98
Less than 50	44	6 to 49

The detail in table 10 presents a summary, by major type of activities offered. The full range of free university activities moves into clearer focus, as one looks at

Table 10.–Class sections in free universities by subject: United States, 1978

Subject	Total sections offered	Percent of total
Total	19,361	100.0
Agriculture and renewable natural resources	538	2.8
Arts, visual and performing	3,861	19.9
Business	532	2.7
Education	304	1.6
Engineering and engineering-related technology	2,120	10.9
Health care sciences and technology	1,263	6.5
Home economics	2,936	15.2
Personal services occupations	65	0.3
Language, linguistics, and literature	1,382	7.1
Law	174	0.9
Library/museum science	33	0.2
Life and physical sciences	358	1.8
Mathematics	72	0.4
Military science	21	0.1
Philosophy and religion	1,780	9.2
Physical education and leisure studies	2,124	11.0
Psychology	103	0.5
Public administration and social services	48	0.3
Social science and social studies	553	2.9
Interdisciplinary studies	19	0.1
Other and not reported	1,075	5.6

some of the least conventional activities. The list below cites some, as offered by one or more free universities.

Health planning services	Political lectures
Overseas travel seminars	Films and musical events
Free library	Consulting with community agencies, instituting educational programs
Artists, guild	
Senior citizen's day trips	Art exhibits
Mother's outreach program	Weekly vegetable feasts (bring your own)
Evening child care	Occasional social events

Learning referral centers reported these types of activities, in addition to their usual program of educational brokering.

Recreational referrals	Apprenticeships (offering practical job experience)
Story telling in elementary schools	Counseling/tutoring
Sewing pattern exchanges	Course suggestions to community groups

Problems Reported And Future Directions In Free Universities And Learning Referral Centers

Respondents were asked for comments on their future goals or problems and almost all contributed to this section. While not lending themselves to statistical summation, these descriptive comments provide a picture of the problems facing many organizations and their plans for the future.

Previous sections have already discussed such problems as need for adequate and stable budgets and for sufficient office and teaching/activity space. In addition, these problems were cited:

1. Competition from other organizations. Many free universities, particularly those in metropolitan areas, find it difficult to compete with other and better financed educational institutions. Several free universities pointed out their problems in this area.

   > With the rise of learning centers throughout the metropolitan area, the free university seems to be limited (since we cannot afford the vast array of courses and personnel). We are seriously thinking of developing into a research/resource center for alternative areas of study.
   >
   > We can report no growth, slow decline likely. There are at least 60 other organizations offering free university-like courses in our metropolitan area.
   >
   > There has been a steady decline in interest over the past few years, due mainly to competition with other sources of non-credit, interest classes.

2. Competition from within the affiliated organization. The success of the free university movement on many campuses has encouraged other departments to develop competitive activities. These other areas of the campus, it might be pointed out, generally have a priority on space and almost always are in a position to provide better reimbursement to teachers. Some illustrative comments include the following:

> Our program may be terminated as of June 30 due to university administrators feeling that functions of our program can be better carried on by more "traditional" departments within the University.
>
> The free university is being reevaluated this fall to see if it should be kept open. Most of its functions have been circumvented by the university's continuing education program.
>
> I have to limit my program to areas not dealt with by the Continuing Education Department. If I get a successful program, the Continuing Education area takes it over and I start all over from square one.

3. No longer an innovation. A number of institutions commented on difficulties in getting funding or other support now that they are established, or have operated for a number of years. Foundations, university officials, and community agencies are all more receptive when an organization is new.

   At the same time, the original founding group may have left the organization and their replacements not as numerous or dedicated.

4. Student dropout rates. As is true of many noncredit activities, a number of those who register for a course or activity will drop out before its completion. To counteract this, some free universities have instituted a registration fee, with the thought that it may induce students to remain with the course. Another one has developed a deposit/refund plan: if the student attends three-fourths of the classes, most of the deposit is refunded. One free university has shortened its class length to 6 weeks, in an attempt to encourage student retention. It also is trying more one-session workshops.

5. Staff turnover and training. The very nature of the low budget free university or learning center means that it must rely heavily on part-time employees or volunteer assistance. It follows that these persons tend to leave to locate full-time, paid jobs—often when they graduate from an affiliated institution or take a new job in a different community. Replacing them is a problem. Closely related is the loss of job-related knowledge. Training and orienting new staff is a major problem facing many of these organizations.

6. Technical knowledge and assistance. Their local origins and the fact that most free universities and learning referral centers are understaffed have handicapped their drawing upon the knowledge and experiences of other organizations. This may be aided by technical assistance from the FUN staff and/or by participating in regional and national meetings of free universities and learning centers.

A number of institutions talked about their plans for the future. One has determined that it would like to turn its free university program into a regular community college. It would offer more evening classes and give credit for them. Another would like to move some of its educational activities into a program developed around an FM-radio station.

A learning center cited its future needs in this fashion:

> The need for our own printing press is the main problem we face. We make up to 30,000 copies of needed information and have printed as many as 150,000 in years past. Our goal is to help individuals who cannot get needed information on their field. Our foremost need now is for publications on health massage and reconditioning and a diet for diabetics, glycomics, and heart patients.

Many free university and learning center directors are generally optimistic about the future of their organization and the general prospects for the field. Where they add a qualifier to this statement, it generally deals with their financial ability over the long haul.

Some directors are not sure what the future holds for their institution. Will students and community residents continue to be interested in noncredit learning? Will other parts of the educational community expand to offer more competing activities? How can these institutions become more financially stable? From where will the "second generation" of leadership for the free universities and learning centers come?

Directory Of Free Universities And Learning Referral Centers

(Note: Free Universities are marked "FU" and Learning Centers "LC." Some are both and are marked accordingly. The list is arranged by State, city, and then alphabetically.)

University Program Council Classes FU
Auburn Union
Auburn University
Auburn, Ala. 36830
205-826-4244

Free University FU
P.O. Box 1247, SGA
University of Alabama
Huntsville, Ala. 35807
205-895-6428

Tucson Free University FU
715 N. Park
Tucson, Ariz. 85719
602-662-0170

Free University FU
Arkansas Union, Room 511
University of Arkansas
Fayetteville, Ark. 72701
501-575-4600

Open University FU
University of Arkansas-Little Rock
33rd & University
c/o Student Government Office
Little Rock, Ark. 72204
501-569-3210

The Community Center of Learning FU
311 W. 'B' Street
Russellville, Ark. 72801
501-968-6633

Experimental College FU
Y.E.S.
Humboldt State University
Arcata, Calif. 95521
707-826-3340

Experimental College FU
6 Lower Freeborn
University of California-Davis
Davis, Calif. 95616
916-752-2568

Experimental College FU
University of California-Irvine
ASUCI
Irvine, Calif. 92717
714-833-5547

UCLA Experimental College FU
409 Kerchoff Hall
308 Westwood Plaza
Los Angeles, Calif. 90024
213-825-2727

University for Man FU
Monterey Peninsula College
980 Fremont, Room E4
Monterey, Calif. 93940
408-649-1150 ext. 283

Experimental College FU
California State University-Northridge
18111 Nordhoff Street
Northridge, Calif. 91330
213-885-2172

Open Education Exchange FU
6526 Telegraph Avenue
Oakland, Calif. 94609
415-655-6791

Experimental College (ASI) FU
California State University
6000 J Street
Sacramento, Calif. 95819
916-454-6784

Feminist Free University FU
908 'F' Street
San Diego, Calif. 92101
714-233-8984

Communiversity FU
P.O. Box 42093
San Francisco, Calif. 94142
no phone

Experimental College FU
San Francisco City College
c/o Behavioral Sciences Department
Ocean and Phelan Avenues
San Francisco, Calif. 94112
no phone

The Gorilla Grotto: A Play Environment FU LC
1323 11th Avenue
San Francisco, Calif. 94122
415-661-4121

Lavendar University FU
3816A 19th St. LC
San Francisco, Calif. 94114
415-771-1450

Orpheus FU
1119 Geary Boulevard
San Francisco, Calif. 94109
415-474-3775

The Learning Exchange FU
324 Senter Road
San Jose, Calif. 95111
408-629-1552

Network Exchange LC
P.O. Box 126
Santa Clara, Calif. 95052
408-984-8134

Self Determination LC
P.O. Box 126
Santa Clara, Calif. 95052
408-984-8134

Community Free School FU
P.O. Box 1724
Boulder, Colo. 80306
303-447-8733

Colorado Springs Free University FU
P.O. Box 6344
Colorado Springs, Colo. 80934
303-633-3929

Denver Free University FU
P.O. Box 18455, 1122 E. 17th Ave.
Denver, Colo. 80218
303-832-6688

Denver Open Network LC
762 Lafayette
Denver, Colo. 80218
303-831-9201

University Two FU
Lory Student Center
Colorado State University
Ft. Collins, Colo. 80523
303-491-6626

University of Northern Colorado FU
Open University
c/o University Center
ASUNC Office N
Greeley, Colo. 80639
303-351-4807

Animas Free School FU
Route 1, Box 3
Hesperus, Colo. 81326
303-385-4542

Winter Park Forum FU
P.O. Box 233
Winter Park, Colo. 80482
303-726-5405

DiVersity FU
Student Center, Room 252
University of Delaware
Newark, Del. 19711
302-738-1203

INFO LC
Wilcastle Center
2800 Pennsylvania Ave.
University of Delaware
Wilmington, Del. 19806
302-571-8100

Open University of Washington FU
3333 Connecticut Avenue, NW.
Washington, D.C. 20008
202-966-9606

Hollywood Leisure University FU
Hollywood, Fla. 33020 LC
305-921-3400

Chai Community LC
Temple Israel of Miami
137 Northeast 19th Street
Miami, Fla. 33132
305-573-5900

Center for Participant Education FU
251 University Union
Florida State University
Tallahassee, Fla. 32306
904-644-6577

People Index LC
Leon County Public Library
Northwood Mall
Tallahassee, Fla. 32301
904-487-2665

Common Learning Network FU
c/o Student Government
CTR 156E
University of South Florida
Tampa, Fla. 33620
813-974-2408

OPTIONS FU
Program Area
Georgia Institute of Technology
Atlanta, Ga. 30332
404-894-2805

Free School FU
SGA
Student Center, 3rd Floor
Southern Illinois University
Carbondale, Ill. 62901
618-536-3393

Communiversity FU
University of Illinois YMCA LC
1001 S. Wright Street
Champaign, Ill. 61820
217-344-1351

The DeKalb Learning Exchange LC
138 S. 2nd Street
DeKalb, Ill. 60115
815-758-5418

The Learning Exchange LC
P.O. Box 920
939 Hinman
Evanston, Ill. 60204
312-273-3385

Experimental College FU
Box 79
Knox College
Galesburg, Ill. 61401
309-343-0112 ext. 302

College of DuPage-Alternative FU
Learning Unit LC
22nd & Lambert Road
Glen Ellyn, Ill. 60137
312-858-2800 ext. 2147-8

Communiversity FU
Office of Academic Services
Western Illinois University
Macomb, Ill. 61455
309-298-1728

Full Circle Resource Exchange LC
c/o 700 South 6th Street
Springfield, Ill. 62703
217-525-0044

Fort Wayne Learning Exchange LC
1120 Crescent Avenue
Fort Wayne, Ind. 46805
219-422-2233

Indianapolis Free University FU
526 E. 52nd Street LC
Indianapolis, Ind. 46205
317-357-6430 or 357-7854

Student Government Free FU
University
318 University Suite TMUC
Indiana State University
Terre Haute, Ind. 47809
812-232-6311 ext. 2804

Iowa State Memorial Union FU
Recreation Class Program
Room 32, Iowa State Memorial Union
Iowa State University
Ames, Iowa 50011
515-294-8081

New College FU
Drake University
Olmsted Center
26th and University
Des Moines, Iowa 50311
515-271-3711

Creative Alternatives FU
c/o Diana Paulina LC
827 Broad Street
Grinnell, Iowa 50112
515-236-8985

Link LC
P.O. Box 1666
Iowa City, Iowa 52440
319-353-5465

Action Studies Program FU
201 Calvin Hall
University of Iowa
Iowa City, Iowa 52242
319-353-3610

Community Education Project FU
Abilene Recreation Commission
City Building
Abilene, Kans. 67410
913-263-7266

People for People FU
P.O. Box 407
Cherryvale, Kans. 67335

Clay County Community Education Program FU
P.O. Box 387
Clay Center, Kans. 67432
913-632-5142

People to People FU
P.O. Box 113
Dighton, Kans. 67839
319-397-2413

Neosho River Free School FU
Memorial Union
Emporia State University
Emporia, Kans. 66801
316-343-1200 ext. 481

Tri-County Community Education Project FU
c/o City Library
102 South Broadway
Herington, Kans. 67449
913-258-3577

Free University FU
Student Union Activities
University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kans. 66045
913-864-3477

The Other Term FU
Philblad Memorial Union
Bethany College
Lindsborg, Kans. 67456
913-227-3311 ext. 162

University for Man FU
1221 Thurston Street
Manhattan, Kans 66502
913-532-5866

Marysville Community Education Program FU
P.O. Box 207
Marysville, Kans. 66508

Milford Community Education FU
Catherine Simon
P.O. Box 104
Milford, Kans. 66514
no phone

Norton County Community Education Association FU
408 N. Norton
Norton, Kans. 67654
913-877-5344

Decatur County Community Education FU
107 E. Ash
Oberlin, Kans. 67749
913-475-3553

Olsburg Rural Education Opportunities FU
c/o Ken and Pat Embers
P.O. Box 126
Olsburg, Kans. 66520
913-468-3627

Phillips County Community Education Program FU
County Courthouse
Phillipsburg, Kans. 67661
913-543-2182

Free University FU
Student Senate
Pittsburg State University
Student Union Office 5
Pittsburg, Kans. 66762
316-231-7000 ext. 249

Little House FU
Memorial Hall LC
9th and Ash Streets
Salina, Kans. 67401
913-825-8402

Rooks County Community Education Program FU
c/o Chamber of Commerce Office
Stockton, Kans. 67669
913-425-6162

Trego Recreation Education and Environment FU
700 N. 4th Street
Wakeeney, Kans. 67672
913-743-5456

Wichita Free University FU
P.O. Box 56
Wichita State University
Wichita, Kans. 67208
316-689-3464

Free Media FU
188 Woodland Avenue
Lexington, Ky. 40502
606-253-2624

Free University FU
Student Center, Room 203
University of Kentucky
Lexington, Ky. 40506
606-258-8867

Louisville Free University FU
Student Center, Room 2
University of Louisville
Louisville, Ky. 40208
502-588-6695

Free University FU
P.O. Box 3094
University Station
Murray, Ky. 42071
502-767-4588

Free University FU
Student Association Office
Powell Building
Eastern Kentucky University
Richmond, Ky. 40475
606-622-3696

LSU Union Leisure Classes FU
P.O. Box BU University Station
Baton Rouge, La. 70893
504-388-5118

Gumbo U: Home of Finger-Lickin' Learning FU
USL Box 4-2611
University of Southwestern Louisiana
Lafayette, La. 70504
318-234-7572

Free University of New Orleans FU
New Orleans Public Library
219 Loyola Avenue
New Orleans, La. 70140
504-586-4927

New Age Community Center FU
97 Danforth Street LC
Portland, Maine 04101
207-773-5703

Experimental College FU
Colby College
Waterville, Maine 04901
no phone

AUM Study Center FU
2405 Ruscombe Lane
Baltimore, Md. 21209
301-664-6959

The Baltimore School FU
P.O. Box 4833
Baltimore, Md. 21211
301-366-6800

Baltimore Free University FU
c/o Chaplain's Office
Johns Hopkins University
34th and Charles
Baltimore, Md. 21218
301-338-8187

Free University of Maryland FU
P.O. Box 294
Beltsville, Md. 20705
301-937-8259

Beacon Hill Free School FU
315 Cambridge Street
Boston, Mass. 02114
617-261-3921

Boston University Free School FU
George Sherman Union Building
725 Commonwealth Avenue
Boston University
Boston, Mass. 02215
617-353-3641

Free University of the Fenway FU
68 St. Stephen Street
Boston, Mass. 02115
617-247-1919

The Hillel School FU
233 Bay State Road
Boston, Mass. 02115
617-266-3880

South Boston Community School LC
107 South Street
Boston, Mass. 02111
617-542-5352

Lowell Cooperative Learning Center FU
10 Kirk Street
Lowell, Mass. 01852
617-458-7812

The Learning Connection LC
122 North Street
Pittsfield, Mass. 01201
413-442-6596

Arts World Institute of Creative Arts FU
213½ S. Main Street
Ann Arbor, Mich. 48104
313-994-8400

Community Switchboard LC
Community Center Project
608 North Main
Ann Arbor, Mich. 48104
313-663-1111

Flint Freedom School/Learning Exchange FU
5005 Lapeer Road LC
Burton, Mich. 48509
313-742-1232

Free University FU
Michigan State University
P.O. Box 103
East Lansing, Mich. 48823
517-337-1807

Parallel: The Learning Referral Service LC
Lefeure Hall
Western Michigan University
Kalamazoo, Mich. 49007
616-383-1994

Free University FU
Northern Michigan University
Student Activities Office
P.O. Box 58
Marquette, Mich. 49855
906-227-2440

Free University FU
448 Hamlin Hall
Oakland University
Rochester, Mich. 48063
313-377-3570

Minnesota Free University FU
c/o James Park
1417 First Avenue South, 210
Minneapolis, Minn. 55403
612-871-7275

Communiversity FU
107 Gentry Hall
University of Missouri-Columbia
Columbia, Mo. 65201
314-882-2635

Communiversity FU
University of Missouri-Kansas City
5100 Rockhill Road
Kansas City, Mo. 64110
816-276-1429

Free University at St. Louis University FU
Busch Memorial Center, Room 301
20 N. Grand Blvd.
St. Louis, Mo. 63103
314-535-3300 ext. 316

People's School FU
P.O. Box 691
St. Louis, Mo. 63188
314-862-8046

Community University FU
Student Union Building, Room 259
Montana State University
Bozeman, Mont. 59717
406-994-4041

University Center FU
University of Montana
Missoula, Mont. 59812
406-243-6661

Carroll County Learning Center FU
P.O. Box 801 LC
Conway, N.H. 03818
603-447-6650

Another Place FU
Route 123 LC
Greenville, N.H. 03048
603-878-1510

Free University FU
Community House
Seton Hall University
400 South Orange
South Orange, N.J. 07079
201-762-9000 ext. 570

Binghamton Learning Exchange LC
P.O. Box 862
Binghamton, N.Y. 13902
607-724-1973

Concepts & Creations FU
123 Seymour College Union
SUNY Brockport
Brockport, N.Y. 14420
716-395-2631

Clinton Free University FU
P.O. Box 73
Clinton, N.Y. 13323
315-859-7109

Middle Earth Switchboard LC
485 Fulton Avenue
Hempstead, N.Y. 11550
no phone

Community Self Reliance Center LC
140 West State Street
Ithaca, N.Y. 14850
607-272-2040

The Learning Web LC
Cornell University
318 Anabel
Taylor Hall
Ithaca, N.Y. 14853
607-256-5026

Apple Skills Exchange FU
137 Fifth Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10010
212-533-1104

Freespace Alternate U. FU
339 Lafayette Street
New York, N.Y. 10012
212-228-0322

Manhattan Resources FU
41 Union Square West, Suite 1328 LC
New York, N.Y. 10003
212-242-6730

Open Space FU
Loeb Student Center 109
New York University
566 Guardia Place
New York, N.Y. 10012
212-598-2001

Communiversity FU
Vocations for Social Change
Genesee Street Corporation
713 Monroe Avenue
Rochester, N.Y. 14607
716-461-2230

Free University FU
c/o Human Development-NTID
1 Lomb Memorial Drive
Rochester Institute of Technology
Rochester, N.Y. 14623
716-475-6200

Community Learning Exchange LC
P.O. Box 6263
Syracuse, N.Y. 13217
315-422-4062

Free University FU
c/o Lee Gechas
609 Clarendon Street
Syracuse, N.Y. 13210
315-472-4151

SHARE (Skills, Hobbies, Arts, Resources, Education) LC
554 E. Hargett Street
Raleigh, N.C. 27601
919-834-9534

Free University FU
University of Cincinnati
340 TUC
Cincinnati, Ohio 45221
513-475-6006

Community Learning Exchange of Columbus LC
P.O. Box 3208
Columbus, Ohio 43210
614-291-9938

Free University FU
Student Union
John Carroll University
Washington Blvd.
University Heights, Ohio 44118
216-932-7252

Community Extra-Curriculum FU
731 Elm Street, Room 316
Norman, Okla. 73019
405-325-3161

Bruner Free University FU
Harrison Memorial Methodist Church
15 S. 65th West Avenue
Tulsa, Okla. 74127
918-245-3144

Praxis Project FU
Free University in Tulsa
Canterbury Center
2839 E. 5th Street
Tulsa, Okla. 74104
918-939-5433

Supplemental Education FU
c/o Student Activities
Oral Roberts University
7777 S. Lewis
Tulsa, Okla. 74105
918-492-6161 ext. 2442

ASOSU-Experimental College FU
Memorial Union East
Oregon State University
Corvallis, Oreg. 97331
503-754-4683

Search FU
EMU IT, Suite 1
University of Oregon
Eugene, Oreg. 97401
503-686-4377

Free University FU
Lewis and Clark College
P.O. Box 10
Portland, Oreg. 97219
503-244-6161 ext. 576

Trade-Off LC
P.O. Box 1446
Bethlehem, Pa. 18018
215-867-1972

Communiversity FU
LaSalle College
5501 Wister
Philadelphia, Pa. 19144
215-951-1577

The Drop-In Centre FU
1810 North Park Mall
Temple University
Philadelphia, Pa. 19122
215-787-7435

Free University FU
223 Hetzel Union Building
University Park, Pa. 16802
814-863-0038

Villanova Free University FU
P.O. Box 207 Tolentine Hall
Villanova University
Villanova, Pa. 19087
215-527-2100 ext. 739

Brown Resource Center LC
Learning Exchange Network
Brown University
P.O. Box 1825
Providence, R.I. 02906
401-863-2419

Free University FU
Russell House University Union
P.O. Box 85141
University of South Carolina
Columbia, S.C. 29208
803-777-7130

Free University FU
United Ministries Higher Education
South Dakota State University
802 11th Avenue
Brookings, S. Dak. 57006
605-692-2603

Free University Committee FU
Union Board
Dakota State College
Madison, S. Dak. 57042
604-256-3551 ext. 279

Communiversity FU
P.O. Box 10704
Knoxville, Tenn. 37919
615-588-1839

Free University FU
Student Government
341 University Center
University of Tennessee
Knoxville, Tenn. 37916
615-239-8177

The Learning Network LC
2510 Rio Grande
Austin, Tex. 78705
512-476-0427

Texas Union Classes FU
Texas Union Room 312
University of Texas at Austin
Austin, Tex. 78712
512-471-3654

Free University FU
Texas A&M University
Memorial Student Center
P.O. Box 5718
College Station, Tex. 77844
713-845-1515

Dallas Public Library-APL/CAT LC
1954 Commerce
Dallas, Tex. 75201
214-748-9071 ext. 364

Mountain View College Community Service FU
4849 W. Illinois
Dallas, Tex. 75211
214-746-4114

Free University FU
Student Center, Box 355
Southern Methodist University
Dallas, Tex. 75275
214-692-2378

Free University of Denton FU
P.O. Box 137 5
North Texas State University Station
Denton, Tex. 76203
no phone

The Class Factory, Inc. FU
1907 SW. Freeway
Houston, Tex. 77006
713-526-9069

Sundry School FU
Campus Activities
University Center
Houston, Tex. 77004
713-749-1253

L.E.A.R.N. FU
University Center Programs
Texas Tech University
Lubbock, Tex. 79409
806-742-3621

University Center FU
Special Interest Classes Committee
Stephen F. Austin State University
P.O. Box 3056
Nacogdoches, Tex. 75962
713-569-3401 ext. 26

Coates Center Courses FU
Trinity University
Coates University Center
715 Stadium Drive, Box 51
San Antonio, Tex. 78284
512-736-8525

Baylor Free University FU
Baylor University Student Govt.
Baylor University
Waco, Tex. 76703
817-755-2369

U.S.U. Mini-Courses FU
Utah State University
P.O. Box 1220
Logan, Utah 84322
801-752-4100 ext. 7642

Campus Capers FU
c/o Campus Recreation
University of Utah
HPER E-214
Salt Lake City, Utah 84112
801-581-8516

Short Courses FU
Squires Student Center
Virginia Tech Union, Program Office
Virginia Polytechnic Institute
Blacksburg, Va. 24060
703-961-5661

YMCA Free University FU
c/o Cooper House
305 Washington Street
Blacksburg, Va. 24060
703-951-4432

ASUM Experimental College FU
Student Union Bldg.—FH 10
University of Washington
Seattle, Wash. 98195
206-543-4375

Health and Life University FU
4½ W. Main
Walla Walla, Wash. 99362
509-529-7000

Free University FU
Cartwright Center
University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse
LaCrosse, Wis. 54601
608-785-8547

Bnai Brith Hillel Foundation FU LC
611 Langdon Street
Madison, Wis. 53703
608-256-8361

Milwaukee Free University FU
P.O. Box 92305
Milwaukee, Wis. 53202
414-265-0445

Free University FU
c/o Jan Harris
McMillan Hall
University of Wisconsin-River Falls
River Falls, Wis. 54022
715-425-3551

Multiversity FU
P.O. Box 3625
University Station
Laramie, Wyo. 82071
307-766-6340

Listing Of New Free Universities And Learning Referral Centers

Since the survey was made, in the spring of 1978, a number of new free universities and learning referral centers have developed. While data on them are not included in the summary tables in this report, a listing of them may be of value to many readers.

Monroe County Informatiion Exchange
Monroe County Public Library
303 E. Kirkwood Avenue
Bloomington, Ind. 47401
812-339-2271
LC

Meade County Free University
c/o Meade County Extension
Courthouse
Meade, Kans. 67864
316-874-2021
FU

Newton Learning Exchange
108 S. Main Street
Newton, Kans. 67114
no phone
FU

Westmoreland Community Education
Westmoreland, Kans. 66549
no phone
FU

Learning & Skills Exchange
Campus Free College
14 Beacon Street
Boston, Mass. 02108
617-742-3060
LC

Lansing Area Learning Exchange
Lansing Public Library
410 S. Capitol Street
Lansing, Mich. 48914
517-347-4600
LC

Brooklyn Skills Exchange
2242 E. 28th Street
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11229
no phone
FU

Community Skills Bank
41 Third Street
Ashland, Oreg. 97520
no phone
LC

Vevango Center for Creative Development
P.O. Box 382
Franklin, Pa. 16323
814-437-5822
FU

Neighborhood Talent and Resource Registry
612 S. Dallas Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15217
412-521-3416
LC

Providence Free University
148 Colonial Road
Providence, R.I. 02906
401-272-9253
FU

Community Education Cooperative
College of the Mainland
8001 Palmer Highway
Texas City, Tex. 77590
713-939-1211
LC

Wisconsin Union Mini Courses
509 Memorail Union
800 Langdon Street
Madison, Wis. 53706
608-262-3156
FU

Wyoming Free University
c/o Gwen Tippett
1127 East B Street
Casper, Wyo. 82601
307-237-5460
FU

Appendix:

Reproduction Of Survey Report Form

O.M.B. No. 51-S-78-006
Approval Expires Dec. 31, 1978
NCES 2411

SURVEY OF FREE UNIVERSITIES AND EDUCATIONAL/ REFERRAL LEARNING CENTERS

This report is authorized by law (20 U.S.C. 1221e). While you are not required to respond, your cooperation is needed to make the results of the survey comprehensive, accurate, and timely.

Please fill out this form as completely and accurately as possible. If necessary, make estimates where actual data is not available.

Report for the most recent 12-month period for which data is available.

For which period are you reporting? (check one)

_____ July 1, 1976 - June 30, 1977
_____ January 1 - December 30, 1977
_____ Other (please specify) _____

1. Name of organization: _____

2. Address: _____

   Street or Box: _____

   City, State, Zip _____

3. Area code and telephone number: _____

4. Type of organization (check all applicable):

   _____ Free university. (experimental college, communiversity, free school, etc.) **Free universities** are a specific type of organization (often known by that name) under whose auspices noncredit, nondegree classes are offered to the general adult public. They are often located on the campus of a traditional college or university. They tend to issue catalogs of their offerings, to charge only a small fee which covers class expenses or no fee at all, and to operate on a relatively low budget.

   _____ Educational referral/learning center (learning network, learning exchange, referral service, etc.) These centers provide educational referrals to individuals seeking information from other individuals offering teaching, skill, or tutorial services. They serve as education brokers, between persons seeking specific education and sources able to provide it.

   (Note: if your organization devotes most of its time to classes, check free university. If most of its time is devoted to educational referrals, check learning center. Check both, if both are important parts of your program.)

   _____ Neither a free university nor an educational referral/learning center. If not, please summarize in a few words your institution's mission.

   _____

   _____

If you checked "Neither a free university nor an educational referral/learning center" do not proceed further with the survey form, but return it in the envelope provided. Do complete the last item, however, to indicate the name of the person responding.

5. Year(s) founded: _____ (If closed, and reactivated, list those years also. For example, "1971-1973, 1975 plus "would indicate that the organization originally began in 1971, became inactive in 1973 and was reactivated in 1975.)

6. Affiliation (check one)

   _____ College or university What is its name: _____

   _____ community agency

   _____ independent

   _____ other please specify: _____

7. Eligibility for learning activities (check one):

   _____ Open to anyone

   _____ Open only to adults age _____ and over

   _____ Open only to college and university-related people (students, staff, administrators, or their families, etc.)

   _____ Other: please specify: _____

8. Activities offered (check as many as applicable)

   _____ classes, courses, workshops, etc.

   _____ educational referrals

   _____ cooperatives (food, tool, craft, etc.)

   _____ others, specify

Free Universities

Items 9, 10, and 11 should be completed only for free universities. Institutions which are exclusively learning centers should skip to item 12.

9. Classes offered. Indicate classes offered during the 12 months of the survey period. Either send a catalog listing all classes offered during this period or, on a separate sheet of paper, list them. Indicate, if using a list, how often each class was given. For example, if macrame was given twice in the spring and once in the fall (either by the same instructor or by different teachers) the correct response would be "macrame (3)". Obviously, enclosing catalogs may be easier and actually preferable.

10. Registrations. Indicate total registrations for each of the two last years. A registration is one person taking one course. If one person takes two courses, that is two registrations. If one person takes one course in the fall and two in the spring, that would be three registrations.

    Total number of registrations for the most recent year: _____

    Total number of registrations for the year before that: _____

11. Unduplicated count. Estimate how many different individuals participated in your program for each of the last two years. This counts each person only once, regardless of how many classes in which he or she participated.

    Total unduplicated count of participants for the most recent year: _____

    Total unduplicated count of participants for the year before that: _____

Educational Referral/Learning Centers

Items 12 and 13 should be completed only by organizations which offer learning center activities. All other organizations should skip to item 14.

12. Referrals made. Indicate the number of referrals made during each of the last two years and the number of teachers, leaders, or other human resources on file to assist them

    Number of referrals made in the most recent year _____

    Number of referrals made in the year before that _____

    Number of teachers, leaders, or human resources on file in the most recent year _____

    Number of teachers-leaders or human resources on file in the year before that. _____

13. Unduplicated count. Indicate how many different individuals sought assistance from your learning center for each of the last two years. This counts each person only once, regardless of how many times he or she sought help.

    Total unduplicated count of participants in the most recent year: _____

    Total unduplicated count of participants in the year before that: _____

All Respondents

Both free universities and learning centers should fill out the remaining items.

14. Information on students or clients. Most organizations don't keep information on the types of their participants but have a good idea of their source. If you don't have accurate figures, please estimate for the most recent year.

    _____ Percent Male
    _____ Percent Female

    _____ Percent minority (Black, Asian, American Indian Hispanic)

    _____ Percent from or related to the university or college with which the organization is affiliated

    _____ Percent community residents of the area in which the organization is located

15. Staff. Number of administrative and other nonteaching staff. Please report the number of different persons who are involved in administering or operating the program. Exclude teachers or resources persons (as used by learning centers)

    _____ Full-time paid
    _____ Part-time paid
    _____ Full-time, not paid
    _____ Part-time, not paid

Financial

All respondents should answer these questions, using the most recent year for which budget information is available. If necessary, use estimates.

16. Fees. What fees are charged by your organization?
    (Check all applicable)

    _____ registration fee, to use the organization

    _____ teacher, class, or service fee, for the individual activity in which participated

    _____ no fees, except for materials

    _____ other, please specify: _____

17. Sources of income. List the dollar amounts for all sources utilized in the most recent year.

Money from affiliated institution(s)	$ _____
Student government or other student organization	$ _____
Registration fees from participants	$ _____
Teacher, class, or service fees from participants	$ _____
Contracts and grants	$ _____
Donations	$ _____
Benefits, fund raisers, special projects	$ _____
Other, please specify _____	$ _____
Total	$ _____

18. Expenditures. List the dollar amounts for all main categories of funds expended in the most recent year.

Staff salaries	$ _____
Teacher fees	$ _____
Facilities	$ _____
Catalog, brochure, advertising	$ _____
Total	$ _____

19. Comments on growth. Cite future goals or problems in your organization which may affect its future. Your response will not be identified with your organization and will be used only to help spot problems, trends, and plans in the field.

20. Name of person responding to the survey: Title:

_____ _____

Phone number: (Area Code) _____

Please return the form and your catalog of lists of courses or activities in the envelope provided to:

The Free University Network
1221 Thurston Avenue
Manhattan, Kansas 66502

If you have any questions, and want to call us, the telephone number is 913/532-5866.

Please return by **April 1.**

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